

Indian Chieftain.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.
\$1.50 Per Year, or \$1.00 if Paid
in Advance

Published Thursdays by
THE CHIEFTAIN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

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M. E. MILFORD, Manager

VINITA, IND. TER., DEC. 1, 1898

Spain made an involuntary assignment Monday.

Labor's worst enemy is the working man who won't work.

The Muskogee Times is getting ready to scare the Creek freedmen into voting for the treaty, if another election is called.

The Dawes commission is engaged in enrolling Creek citizens at Muskogee who failed to appear at the place of taking the census heretofore.

Some people are losing sight of the fact that it is not the mission of the Dawes commission to allot the lands of the Indian Territory to renters and lessees.

The Sentinel facetiously remarks that Chief Mayes, Bob Owen, Judge Thomas and Dave Muskrat are the only men who do not know that the Curtis bill is law.

The geological survey of Indian Territory will be through with its work December 15, having completed a detailed survey and topographical map of every acre of ground owned by the five tribes.

It is hoped congress will not forget to divide the northern district among its first acts. The Seminole nation and the greater portion, if not all the Creek country, should be severed from the northern district.

Inspector Wright's plan of not allowing Indian citizens to sell or buy wood or timber of any kind, if enforced would cause nine-tenths of the people in the territory to do without fuel for cooking or heating purposes this winter.

The Galloway Methodist College for girls at Searcy, Arkansas, was burned Sunday night. Three hundred and ten girls were asleep in the building at the time the fire broke out but all escaped. The building cost \$40,000.

The message of the acting chief of the Creek nation indicates that he is well informed as to the probable effect of the Curtis act. It all hinges upon the constitutionality of that act and that is practically conceded. The Creeks are on the right track.

The Cherokee nation is situated very much like the Creek nation in the fact that it has paid able attorneys to test the constitutionality of the Curtis act. Why not wait and see whether that law will stand the test of the courts before making an agreement.

In a well organized city government there are many ways of raising revenue besides a direct property tax. If all the ordinances now in force in this city were rigidly enforced there would be ample cash on hand to run the town and carry on needed improvements of the streets and alleys.

The Oklahoma excursionists at St. Louis last week did not fail to remind St. Louis that a single state of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory would be a grand thing. Oklahomans are in favor of single statehood and all Indian Territory people are opposed to it—except Walker of the Purcell Register.

While the courts are declaring that the Curtis bill is unconstitutional and therefore cannot be enforced, the Dawes commission are still threatening the Indians with the dire results of its enforcement. If these functionaries of the government would get together on this thing, it would be a source of some satisfaction to the Indians.

Now that the government has agreed to pay \$20,000,000 for the Philippines way around on the other side of the earth, wonder how much it would give for the Cherokee nation lock, stock and barrel. But if it is as slow about paying the twenty millions as it has been about the \$4,000,000 due the Cherokees this generation may not see the debt settled.

The task of making an agreement that will be better than the Curtis bill, and at the same time acceptable to the Cherokee people and the United States government, will now confront the Cherokee people. A rush of conflicting interests may now be looked for. The railroads, the Delaware claim, the intruders and the townspeople will all have to be taken care of or either or all of them will fight it to the bitter end. The future is not redolent with promise of smooth sailing for the Cherokees and the chances are that it will be many moons before the troubled waters are stilled.

The Indian division of the interior department has sent out by mail 700 copies of the department rules and regulations for leasing of lands, collection of revenue and so forth in Indian Territory under the provisions of the Curtis act. They were distributed as follows: Two hundred to the Dawes commission, 200 to United States Agent Wright, 200 to agents of the land office and 100 among the different tribes. They will be furnished by Agent Wright or the Dawes commission to the applicants for mineral leases and to others from whom revenue will be collected under the Curtis act. The rules and regulations went into effect November 4.

The board of underwriters for the Indian Territory has agreed upon a reduction of rates in cities of the second class on new and renewed risks. The reduction is a flat amount from the basis of the annual rate. Non-exposed residences now have a basis of 60 cents on the \$100; it was formerly 75 cents. The reduction on each \$100 is as follows: Dwellings and contents 15 cents, schools and churches, brick or stone, metal or slate roofs, 15 cents; frame 20 to 30 cents; boarding houses, hotels, restaurants, blacksmith shops without woodwork or painting, 50 cents; mercantile risks, buildings, 35 cents; preferred stock 25 cents, non-preferred stock, 20 cents. This reduction became effective November 15.

There came to be heard by Judge Townsend, at Paul's Valley, Saturday, the much talked of case of Mary Jane Kimberlin vs. the commission of the five civilized tribes. It was sought on behalf of the plaintiff in this action to compel the commission of the five tribes to enroll her as a member of the Chickasaw tribe of Indians by intermarriage. After an elaborate argument the judge denied the relief asked for and dismissed the petition, stating that in his opinion he had no jurisdiction to entertain the petition or grant the relief prayed for. The plaintiff gave notice of an appeal.

This was an unusual procedure in the Indian Territory, and was the first case taken up to a higher court. If Judge Townsend had granted the writ hundreds of applicants who had been refused enrollment would have applied for a writ to compel the Dawes commission to enroll them.

Perhaps no case that was ever tried in the Indian Territory attracted more attention than the Creek warrant case now in the court at Wagoner. The case will be watched closely from Washington and throughout the territory. One reason why people are so deeply interested in the case is because it has been suggested that the parties indicted would not be prosecuted to any great extent and it remains to be seen whether they will or not. It has been charged against the Indian tribes in this territory that stealing from the public treasuries of these tribes was never seriously considered as a crime and that such criminals went unpunished. Now that the machinery of the United States courts has full swing in the Indian territory it is interesting to note whether these thieves in high places will be prosecuted or not. The Creek warrant case, with one possible exception, the most gigantic and high-handed piece of robbery that has come to light even in the history of the five tribes. And the government is in possession of the facts, too.

The wide range of personal blessings for which people are thankful suggests a trend of thought that is interesting. The average man or woman, down deep in their hearts, are not quite sure of an overruling Providence. Man naturally clings to his own achievements and is proud of them, and when thankful at all, is like the Pharisee, thankful that he is better than his neighbors. The most helpless and weakest human beings generally see more to be thankful to God for than those more independent. A story illustrative of this fact is told of a Thanksgiving dinner at an asylum for the indigent blind in one of the states. Some great personages were present and in their post-prandial speeches were telling why they were thankful, some for one cause and some for another. After they were through a little blind orphan girl arose from her place at the table and said that she was "thankful for all things." This poor little waif blind and homeless and poor, could lift her sightless eyes to heaven and say that she was even thankful for her poverty and helplessness. Verily, "a little child shall lead them."

John Grass, Dave Muskrat and Henry Dick might now make a missionary journey to the Philippines in the interest of the full-bloods.

W. M. Mellette, while at Enfaula last week, prepared the papers in the Belt Mercantile Co. failure.

THE DRIFT OF A DAY.

BY "RAMBLER."

Recently I have been favorably impressed with the manifest improvement in the Signs of Ethical ethics of our people. Improvement, ple—I mean the people of Vinita. I see more and more good taste shown by Vinitans, especially in public assemblies, at church, at the opera house and wherever "brave men and handsome women" are expected to congregate. The churches of the town have within the last year or two been greatly strengthened and edified by accessions from what I shall term the "smart set." I can remember when all the common people in town went to church with great regularity and dressed as plain as they liked. The old-fashioned and foolish custom used to prevail of everybody going to church, even before the hour of beginning, and were absolutely in their seats when the first hymn was sung. I was greatly pleased not long ago when attending a popular service to see so many people show the rare good taste of waiting till the preacher was about half through his sermon before they came in. I felt like clapping my hands in approval when two exquisitely dressed ladies of my acquaintance were shown in by the polite usher just before the preacher closed. They walked well up to the front and took their seats amid the admiring glances of the audience, and to make the effect complete, the minister paused while they were settling into their seats.

Then again, the old puritanical idea that church people must abstain from dancing, card playing and the moderate use of intoxicants is rapidly giving way to the broad, liberal and progressive views of an educated and enlightened public conscience. Good society is fast paving the way for a broader and better religion and the old narrow, hide-bound, "deep spirituality" so much prated about in the old days is fast disappearing.

The Holy Spirit distributes "the gifts" as He will. Therefore one cannot tell another Christian what to do; but we consistency, are to provoke one another to good works. How then can we better keep up the spiritual tone than by a consistent walk? Sometimes one has to deny one's self lawfully, intellectual and mental pleasure. For the sake of consistency, one has to abstain from certain meats and drinks. "But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that showed it, and for conscience sake: Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other, for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?" Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God? Why? That you may give no occasion to any one to doubt your consistency. According to the teachings of our Lord and Savior, his followers although in the world are not of it. This separation is not one of locality; it is one of spirit and of the renewed mind. He knew as no one else can know the power and subtlety of the tempter. He knew the charms and fascinations of Vinita's four hundred "select," as well as the hindrances thereof to the practical consistent life of his chosen disciples. But did he lower the standard? No. He expects men and women to live brave and true lives surrounded as they are by all these temptations. In spite of environments, the white robe and special crown will be won by the consistent. He is not a hard master, nor does He expect unattainable things. One can be a Christian anywhere; one can be faithful everywhere, at all times, under all circumstances.

By a consistent walk the Christian is to show that he is not moulded and shaped by the influences at work around him. He must be more than the expression and reflection of these surroundings; he certainly can not be an "on the fence" nor a "middle of the roader" waiting to see which side will be in the supremacy. A recent writer says "that nothing so surprised and dismayed his heart as the laxity of principle which he so often saw in persons as they passed from one set of surroundings to another. The man who was fine and good in America was not necessarily pure and good in France or Turkey." Christian principle which is but another name for consistency, is not a thing of clothes to be put on or off at the caprice of the ever changeable weather.

Fullbloods are happy. There is great rejoicing among the fullbloods of the Indian Territory over the defeat of the Dawes-Creek treaty and the adoption of the Curtis bill, which measure they hope to have declared void by the courts at Washington and

once more be allowed to enjoy the domination of their own governments. As it is, the Indians will, for the present, be ruled from the interior department at Washington through Special Inspector Wright. While it is a fact the authorities at Washington and the Dawes commission had little doubt of the success of the treaty, the fullbloods, under the leadership of Chief Ispahcheher and Second Chief Rolly McIntosh, gathered their forces together and defeated the proposition by 150 votes out of 2,000 cast. This decision of the Indians leaves matters in a very unsatisfactory state, but will not, in a great measure, hurt the progress of the Indian Territory, the only drawback being the fact that non-citizens will not be enabled to get a title to land in the Creek nation. The decision will also compel the cattlemen to seek a new location in a short time, as the allotments of land which are provided for in the Curtis bill will cause the large pastures to be cut up in farms of 160 acres each, thus ruining the big pastures.—Arrow.

Monday's St. Louis Cattle Market. J. E. Campbell shipping from Chelsea, I. T., marketed 72 head 1,029-pound steers at \$3.90 and 44 head 1,170 pound at \$4.15. Swift & Co. bought the light cattle and the St. Louis Dressed Beef Co. the heavy bunch.

E. F. Reynolds shipping from Chelsea, I. T., marketed 50 head 883-pound steers at \$3.65.

Texas and Indian Territory calves a year ago today sold at \$5.50 to \$11.50 per head, cows and heifers mostly at \$2.70 to \$3.00, grass steers 800 to 970 pounds average at \$3.00 to \$3.75 and fed steers 1,000 to 1,101 pounds at \$3.90 to \$4.15.

Since the season opened this market received 12,165 cars of cattle in the quarantine division, Chicago received 3,809 cars and Kansas City received 9,960 cars. St. Louis received 5,703 cars direct from Texas and 4,954 cars direct from the Indian Territory.

Last week in the quarantine division the receipts were 253 cars. Texas furnished 159 cars, the Indian Territory 20, Mississippi 32, Arkansas 33, Tennessee 5 and Alabama 4 cars.

Last week the Indian Territory furnished this market 20 cars of cattle, the week before 66 cars and two weeks before 85 cars. So far this year 4,954 cars of cattle arrived from the Indian Territory.

L. Appleby, Tulsa, I. T., had in three loads of miscellaneous cattle including 822-pound cows sold at \$2.80 and 716-pound cows at \$2.40.

S. C. Cobb, Tulsa, I. T., had six cars of cattle on the market consisting of 801-pound steers sold at \$3.65, and 750 pound steers at \$3.60.

The Curtis bill, like the sun when Phaeton tried to guide its course through the heavens, gets mighty close to some of the Cherokees and Creeks and far away from others. Some are fairly frying while others are freezing. At best it is like the love of a maiden; it blows hot and cold above the South Canadian, and the political status—we query the term—is a delightful mixture, more resembling the play of the two Dromios than anything we have ever seen on or off the stage. The newspapers up there are having a big feast of reason and flow of soul and are improving the opportunity, while in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations everything is covered up with white wings of peace and no mortgages, except some souls the devil seems to have a mortgage on, and they—well they will be foreclosed some dark day and they will never remember the troubles of the Indian Territory for they will have troubles of their own. We'll let it go at that.—South McAlister Capital.

Of unusual interest to every reader of this paper is the advertisement elsewhere in this issue of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, unquestionably one of the greatest of American newspapers. That peerless paper can now be had by mail, every day, including the big Sunday issue, for only six dollars per year, and at that price, it is certainly within the reach of all who desire to read any daily paper. The weekly Globe-Democrat is issued in semi-weekly sections of eight pages each, making it practically a large semi-weekly, and almost equal to the average daily, at \$1 a year. This issue is just the thing for the farmer, merchant or professional man who has not the time to read the daily paper, but wishes to keep promptly and thoroughly posted. It is made up with especial reference to the wants of every member of the family, not only giving all the news, but also a great variety of interesting and instructive reading matter of all kinds. Write for free sample copies to Globe Printing Co., St. Louis, Mo. 13-18.

Let every resident of Vinita become an immigration agent. We want population of the right sort.

We do not believe that the national council will be silly enough to make an appropriation for the national jail (hotel). The only punishment to a Cherokee convict is the fact of his conviction. They do not work but hunt and fish and have a good time. If you want a good, easy time, just contrive to break into the jail and your board, lodging and clothes are furnished free. You do not work, you are not restrained of your liberty, and some of you do not have to wear the uniform, but just eat, drink and be merry. Turn them out, and if they persist in violating the law let the United States court have a chance. Not a single dollar of revenue was collected from this source last year. Make citizens of our people again and give them another chance.—Sentinel.

Joe Mayfield shot and seriously wounded Neal Willis near Ghorney's farm, 3 miles north of Tahlequah, Saturday afternoon. After Mayfield shot the first time, it is said that Willis returned the fire and one shot struck Mayfield in the side. Willis was married to Miss Mayfield, Joe's sister, Saturday, in Tahlequah, and Mayfield objected to the proceeding. This is supposed to have been the cause of the trouble.—Arrow.

The trial of the parties charged with issuing fraudulent Creek warrants began today at Wagoner. This will be the hottest legal battle of the year in the territory. Over \$95,000 of these warrants were issued and some of the parties charged with the crime are reputed to be worth this amount and consequently have secured the best legal talent obtainable.—Capital.

Killing at Holdenville. Saturday night at Holdenville, James Sharp was shot and instantly killed by Jake Duval. Duval runs a laundry over in the Creek town on the Choctaw. The difficulty occurred over an unsettled account. Duval was taken to Enfaula last night with his right arm in a sling, having been nearly severed by a hatchet in the hands of the man he shot. Deputy Buckner had him in charge.

SECRET DRAWERS. A Custom That Died with Forefathers—Makers of the Colonial Period.

Little, if any, modern furniture is made with secret compartments, such as those that gave kindly aid to our ancestors, and often, even in the reproductions of antique desks and bureaus, these drawers are omitted. This is probably owing to the added labor and expense that are necessary to produce them.

Among the desks that have secret receptacles are those that have come down from colonial times, when the secret drawer came flaunting into fashion. A typical colonial desk is owned by a prominent woman in New York, who declares that it came over from the Mayflower. Its secret drawer is shown with much pride; for in it was once hidden by the fair Priscilla a letter from John Alden. The desk is very cumbersome, and the locality of the drawer could hardly be doubted by the most unsuspicious.

But of all nations that of Spain has undoubtedly expended the most ingenuity in secret drawers, and it is quite safe to say that their fine pieces of furniture are made not only with one but with many such places. They are always so well concealed that it is taken for granted that finding them would be impossible, and a chart is therefore provided by their designer as a clue to their locality.

About two years ago a superb specimen of Spanish mystery and fine workmanship in the shape of an escritoire was consigned to an antique dealer. It was bought by ex-Mayor Grace, of New York city, and probably has not a rival in this country. The chair that accompanied it, and which was a modern one, showed the location of 18 secret drawers. But when it was renovated and overhauled by an expert, there were found to be no less than 13 more such places, completing in all a number of 31. Many were arranged in the drawers of the desk, and by pushing to one side a column that appeared to be simply for ornamentation, and necessary to the design, a small slide was found, which, when also pushed, revealed a little chest of five drawers, most exquisitely finished, and finished with carved ivory knobs. In their turn they could be lifted out as a whole, when a much larger and deeper space was found that could be used for hiding almost any object of value.

It is sometimes strangely true that the more open and frank the characteristic of a nation, the more many of its people are given to secret places. This was illustrated by their having been so fashionable in Puritan times in this country. A traveler through New England tells of his astonishment at the caution displayed by one of its inhabitants in providing for himself as well as his goods and chattels a secret hiding place in case of necessity. Upon examination, he found that an old colonial bureau that stood against the wall in an upper room had been used for this purpose. The partition between the two lower drawers as well as the backs were provided with grooves and springs to assist them in gliding out of sight. The space was then so large that the owner could easily crawl in and pass through a hole in the wall that connected with a dark closet. The closet, in its turn, opened upon an outer shed from which an escape could be made.—N. Y. Sun.

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CHIEFS TAKE IN WASHING. The Lovely Samson Laundrymen Object to Being Held to Strict Accountability.

A Samoan chief has a ravenous hunger for testimonials. Promptly on making acquaintance with the hereditary ruler of any one of the island communities one meets the request or the demand for a tui, a writing. No matter how slight or how formal the association, the white man is expected to write a paper setting forth the conspicuous virtues of the potentate, dwelling with special emphasis on his capacity for letting horses, getting up Samoan picnics or dances, and particularly his reliability and promptness in the very necessary matter of washing clothes. To each new arrival on the beach at Apia are presented by a batch of chiefs their respective sheafs of testimonials, concerning the reliability of which there can be no doubt.

Folan, who was the Samoan chief justice of the native supreme court until he settled a personal dispute by a revision to a method of practice antedating the institution of law courts, in which he clubbed an important member of parliament, has a pocket-book filled with his testimonials, a collection of the autographs of officials and globe-trotting visitors, as well as a proof of their willingness to oblige a friend and depart somewhat widely from strict truth. Seumautafa, the chief of Apia and a man highly honored by the American government for bravery at the time of the hurricane, uses the letters with which he was honored by admirals and high officials at that time.

Once in awhile some tourist intrusts himself for a month to the bareness of the Apia Islands; to him comes the occasion of having to read all the testimonials before making the momentous decision of giving out his "wash." The largest harvest comes for the chiefs when a war vessel makes its first visit to the harbor. Then Folan and half a dozen other men of rank set briskly forth to pay their respects. Always among the first is the great whale-boat, which the United States gave to Seumautafa, and, as his testimonials glisten with seals and waste of wax, he claims the first consideration. On equal terms he pays his call upon the commanding officer, and lays before him his precious documents. Always show what a great man the chief of Apia is among the great ones of the earth. Seumautafa will talk by the hour with the newcomer on the high political themes which the stranger vainly thinks are of interest to the local statesman. But as the end of broad hint, in fact a blunt demand, suggests that "Fa'atulia he do your wash cheap, he got plenty girl," Fa'atulia being, despite the masculine pronoun, the chief's wife. At the same time there is always a pretty girl in a canoe somewhere in plain sight of the quarter-deck. A hall from the chief brings her aboard for exhibition; she probably improves the opportunity to beg a shilling for her own account, and she gets the contract to wash for the commander and never fails to ask him to order the wardroom to patronize her as well. Few commanding officers are quite at their ease in the role of seafaring agent for a colored washerwoman. But in some way the transaction is concluded and the chief folds away his testimonials in readiness for the next opportunity for their display.

At first it seems a little awkward to spend one day in discussing with a chief the affairs of state and economy, a short time in the pieces returned, or if the articles are of varied ownership scattered all along the beach, those little things are supposed to be wiped out by the enormous bunch of flowers which the girl brings with the clothes.—N. Y. Sun.

Tips—I met that telephone girl yesterday. Tips—"What did she say?" Tips—"Hello!"—Town Topics.

"Is he really so jealous?" "Why, he is even jealous of himself since some one told him matrimony hurted, and other man of him."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

First Artist—"You'll have to practice the most rigid economy." Second Artist—"Rigid economy? Great Scott! I've been living within my income for a month!"—Truth.

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